A NEW SPECIES OF *SIREX* FROM CALIFORNIA

(Hymenoptera: Siricidæ)

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Since the publication of Bradley's monograph on the nearctic Siricidæ in 1913, no new species in this family have been described from North America. It is, therefore, felt desirable to bring to the notice of workers in this group the description of a new species occurring in California.

Inasmuch as living larvæ of Siricidæ have been introduced into various countries in shipments of timber, it was necessary to eliminate the possibility of its being an introduced species. With the appearance of Benson's recent work on the Siricidæ of Europe and Asia (Benson, 1943), all of the faunistic areas of this family have now been rather well covered. Keys to the Nearctic species were given by Bradley (1913), to the Palearctic species by Gussakovskij (1935), while the species of the Japanese Empire were given by Takeuchi (1938). After a careful search of these papers, the possibility of its having been previously described is fairly remote. There are no known native Siricidæ in Australia or South America and no species of *Sirex* in the Ethiopian region.

I am indebted to Dr. Robert B. Benson of the British Museum for examining the holotype.

Sirex longicauda Middlekauff, new species

Female. Length of body, from head to tip of cornus 29 mm.; length of forewing 20 mm.; length of ovipostor 27 mm.; length of saw sheath 27 mm.; ovipostor: forewing ration 0.69. Color: head, antennæ, thorax, abdomen, and legs except tibæ and tarsi metallic blue-black. Tibæ and tarsi reddish brown. Saw sheath and ovipositor variable, reddish brown to blue-black. Wings slightly infuscated along veins and around the apical margin. Veins reddish brown to dark brown.

Head, thorax, basal segment of antennæ, and two basal segments of the abdomen rather densely clothed with a long greyish-black pubescence. Legs are somewhat less pubescent than the thorax. The antennæ beyond basal segment progressively less pubescent. Antennæ with 25 - 26 segments, the basal segment finely punctate.

Head and thorax densely and finely punctate, the pronotum and femora coarsely rugose. Post genæ and post ocular areas sparsely

punctate. Precornal basin bounded laterally by prominent shoulders. Cornus as in fig. 1, A and B, elongate, arched with an indistinct ridge towards base.

This species may be separated readily from *Sirex areolatus* (Cresson) on the basis of the reddish tibiæ and tarsi and by the shape of the cornus; and from *Sirex juvencus cyaneus* Fabricius by the shape of the cornus, color of legs and the very long ovipositor and sheath.

Holotype, female, BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA, April, 1932, *Abies concolor* Lindl. and Gord., in the collection of the California Academy of Sciences. *Paratype*, one female, Miami Ranger Station, Madera Co., Calif., June, 1942. In the collection of the

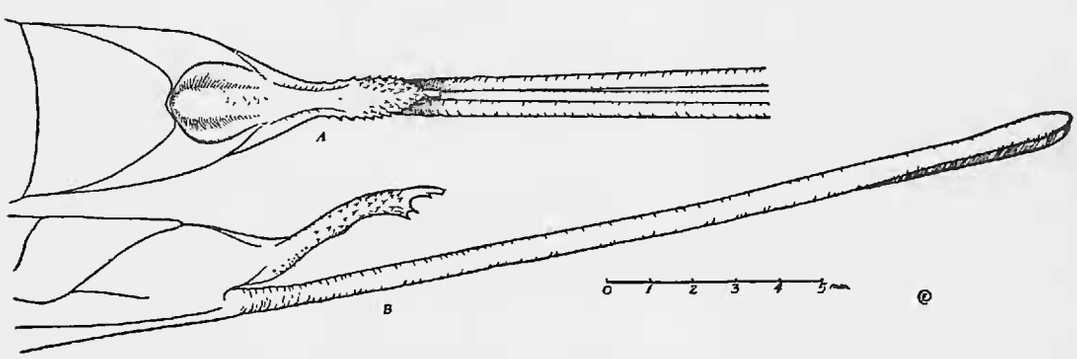

Fig. 1. Apex of abdomen of female *Sirex longicauda*. *A*. Dorsal view showing constricted cornus and precornal basin. *B*. Lateral view showing arched cornus and relative length of saw sheath.

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